

STATEMENT OF PHILIP MORRIS USA
January 18, 1993

On January 7, 1993, Administrator Reilly announced that the EPA was issuing its risk assessment on environmental tobacco smoke (ETS), classifying ETS as a Group "A" (known human) carcinogen.

Prior to issuance of the risk assessment by the EPA, our corporate policy was one of trying to accommodate smoking and nonsmoking employees. We continue to support accommodation of smokers and nonsmokers. We also support good ventilation and a building systems approach to total indoor environmental quality in the workplace and in public places.

We believe that the decision by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to classify environmental tobacco smoke as a Group A carcinogen is not justified by the available science.

In our opinion, an objective review of the available studies -- including one of the newest and largest studies, which was not considered by the EPA -- leads to a conclusion that today's scientific data do not convincingly support an increased risk of lung cancer to nonsmokers from ETS.

We are cognizant of the underlying fact that although EPA's risk assessment has received much publicity -- in part attributable to press conferences arranged by EPA -- even the EPA

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acknowledges that the EPA has no regulatory authority over ETS. Administrator Reilly pointedly emphasized on January 7, 1993, that "EPA has no regulatory authority over environmental tobacco smoke," or over smoking in the workplace. Indeed, the EPA's risk assessment involved a literature review of studies involving possible spousal exposure to ETS in the home. In this regard, it should be emphasized that the EPA's literature review involved no new research by EPA and involved no EPA research whatsoever concerning workplace exposures.

OSHA, which has jurisdiction in the workplace, has no regulations in place regarding ETS in the workplace. Indeed, OSHA has no rulemaking in progress at this time. However, on January 14, 1993, outgoing Secretary of Labor Lynn Martin directed OSHA to review workplace smoking issues. Secretary Martin urged OSHA to consider all information, including the EPA's risk assessment. As to the latter, Secretary Martin noted that although EPA focused upon the "home environment," OSHA would need to "examine these concerns and determine how they apply to the workplace."

Philip Morris USA works toward accommodation of its smoking and nonsmoking employees. We urge other employers to review all options concerning the workplace smoking issue and to make decisions on indoor smoking that address the specific needs of the employees and the specific requirements of the workplace.

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